

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION

350 MONTANA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

DEB HAALAND, et al.,

Defendants,

and

SIGNAL PEAK ENERGY, LLC,

Defendant-Intervenor.

CV 19–12–M–DWM

ORDER

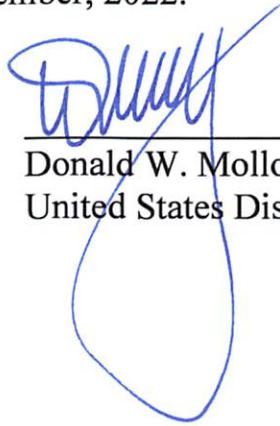
A court may appoint a Special Master to “perform duties consented to by the parties,” or to “address pretrial and posttrial matters that cannot be effectively and timely addressed by an available district judge or magistrate judge of the district.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(a)(1). Before appointing a Special Master, the court must give the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard. Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(b)(1). Any party may suggest candidates for appointment. *Id.*

The Court is considering appointing Retired Magistrate Judge Jeremiah Lynch as a Special Master to negotiate for a possible settlement in this matter. As indicated by Defendant-Intervenor’s counsel at the December 2, 2022 status

hearing, Defendants are willing pay the costs associated with a Special Master's duties. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(g)(2)(A). Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that the parties may file objections to the appointment of a Special Master or suggest alternative candidates for appointment by December 9, 2022.

DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.



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Donald W. Molloy, District Judge  
United States District Court